

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 60% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 or the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide having biological activity;
  - b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 20 nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 or the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;
  - c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;
  - d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;
  - e) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a biologically active polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 under stringent conditions; and,

f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of a), b), c), d), or e).

2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which is selected from the  
5 group consisting of:

a) a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID  
NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9, the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid  
deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, or a  
complement thereof; and,

10 b) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising  
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded  
by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, or a complement thereof.

15 3. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising vector nucleic  
acid sequences.

4. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising nucleic acid  
sequences encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

20 5. A host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

6. The host cell of claim 5 which is a mammalian host cell.

25 7. A non-human mammalian host cell containing the nucleic acid molecule  
of claim 1.

8. An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

30 a) a biological active polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid  
molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 60% identical to a nucleic

acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 or the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;

5 b) a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9 under stringent conditions; and,

10 c) a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8; and

15 d) a polypeptide having at least 60% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein the polypeptide has biological activity.

9. The isolated polypeptide of claim 8 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

20           10. The polypeptide of claim 8 further comprising heterologous amino acid  
sequences.

11. An antibody which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8.

25 12. A method for producing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting  
of:  
a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID  
NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid  
30 deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;

b) a polypeptide comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_;

5 c) a biologically active naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9; and,

10 d) a polypeptide having at least 60% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein said polypeptide has biological activity;

15 comprising culturing the host cell of claim 5 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.

13. A method for detecting the presence of a polypeptide of claim 8 in a sample, comprising:

25 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the compound which binds to the  
polypeptide is an antibody.

15. A kit comprising a compound which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8 and instructions for use.

16. A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a sample, comprising the steps of:

a) contacting the sample with a nucleic acid probe or primer which selectively hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule; and,

5 b) determining whether the nucleic acid probe or primer binds to a nucleic acid molecule in the sample.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the sample comprises mRNA molecules and is contacted with a nucleic acid probe.

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18. A kit comprising a compound which selectively hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and instructions for use.

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19. A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide of

claim 8 comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a polypeptide, or a cell expressing a polypeptide of claim 8 with a test compound; and,

b) determining whether the polypeptide binds to the test compound.

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20. The method of claim 19, wherein the binding of the test compound to the

polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

a) detection of binding by direct detecting of test compound/polypeptide binding;

b) detection of binding using a competition binding assay; and,

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c) detection of binding using an assay for receptor-mediated signal transduction.

21. A method for modulating the activity of a polypeptide of claim 8 comprising contacting a polypeptide or a cell expressing a polypeptide of claim 8 with a

compound which binds to the polypeptide in a sufficient concentration to modulate the activity of the polypeptide.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the cell is derived from tissues selected  
5 from the group consisting of cardiovascular, inflammatory, malignant, immune, virus-  
infected, fibrotic tissue, brain and spinal cord.

23. A method for identifying a compound which modulates the activity of a  
polypeptide of claim 8, comprising:

10           a)     contacting a polypeptide of claim 8 with a test compound; and,  
              b)     determining the effect of the test compound on the activity of the  
polypeptide to thereby identify a compound that modulates the activity of the  
polypeptide.